TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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UNGARBLING THE GOBBLER

Truth has finally prevailed in the matter of the first Thanksgiving. It was held at Berkeley on the James in Virginia in 1619, a year and 17 days before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. Let us now proceed to set the record straight concerning the centerpiece of this truly American tradition, the turkey.

This peerless native bird graced rough-hewn Colonial tables when Captain John Smith wheedled wild game from the Indians during the "starving Time" at Jamestown.

The turkey even then was a prize indeed. His long feathers made headdresses for Indian chief and warrior, and the spurs that fighting turkey cock can drive nearly an inch into an oak board made Indian arrowheads. So highly was he respected by the Red Man that his carcass could not go into the stewpot along with the common deer, but had to be cooked separately.

Today, a wise and patient hunter in Virginia can still bring home one of the Old Dominion's estimated 12,000 wild turkeys for Thanksgiving, while in New England, the wild bird was virtually extinct in 1842.

For today's less fortunate nimrods and urbanites, the turkey for Thanksgiving is carefully sheltered from birth in scientifically designed houses. His nutrition is scrupulously balanced, his blood tested for disease, his constitution meticulously medicined and his family tree infused with the blood of smaller, meatier breeds.

Here again Virginia takes the lead. If Virginia can claim the motherhood of Presidents, she can also claim the father of the turkey industry, C. W. Wampler, Sr., of Harrisonburg. In an enterprise still headed by Mr. Wampler, turkeys were first successfully incubated and brooded artificially in America. From these beginnings, Virginia's turkey industry has grown until it now produces over 7,000,000 turkeys annually, more than all of New England including New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Virginia leads the nation in the production of the Beltsville White Turkey, first grown commercially by Chester Housh, of Elkton, and boasts the world's largest hatchery at Heatwole Turkey Farms, Linville, which can turn out nearly a million turkey poults over 28 days.

Appomattox County is coming into its own in the turkey business, with an excellent modern hatchery, and a sizeable business in the raising of the celebrated bird. A big challenge in the business is the development of a year-around consumption of turkey.

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RAYBURN BARS TAX CUT

Speaker Sam Rayburn, of the U. S. House of Representatives, has barred a tax cut at the next session of Congress. Rayburn said that a tax-cutting bill would not be sensible while the government is engaged in deficit spending.

Some estimates of the deficit which the government would be faced with during the current fiscal year have ranged as high as twelve billion dollars.

Instead of talking of a tax cut, Speaker Rayburn believes a tax bill might be enacted in the next session of Congress which would close certain "loopholes" and correct certain "injustices" and "inequities." This would allow the government to collect additional monies, while not actually raising taxes.

Both Speaker Rayburn and Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, of the U. S. Senate, have pledged a continuance of the cooperation that they have extended Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower for the past four years. However, both have expressed some resentment at the partisan attitude adopted in the recent campaign on the part of the President.

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THE SIMPLE LIFE

The simple life is one which commends itself in many ways. All of us have noticed among us, from time to time, a good citizen (or several of them) content to lead a simple life, with modest income, and derive satisfaction and fulfillment from simple things.

An event in Pittsburgh reminded us of our thoughts along this line recently. It seems that for thirty-eight years Roy Anderson had been running a streetcar. On his retirement day, his sons had a streetcar decorated gaily and it was driven for several hours through the streets of Pittsburgh on a Sunday, with Roy Anderson and all friends and family aboard. It was a farewell ride, so to speak. Anderson recalled that he had met his wife on a streetcar, back in 1922. She says he always made her pay for the rides, but he added that they had had lots of time to talk in those days, when he was a motorman.

Anderson, reflecting, says he is entirely satisfied with his career, which included thirty-eight years as a streetcar motorman and conductor. No great riches his, no world prominence has he gained, and no great mark is he likely to leave.

Yet the man living a simple life is the backbone of any great country. Perhaps those who live this life understand the real values far better than those bent on a mad chase for money and more money. More of us have seen most respected people in our community never attain any great financial success. Yet they are happy and get a full measure out of life.

This seems to prove that the simple life is good, or—at the least—that wealth and prominence are not necessary for happiness. It is good to remember. For, while there are some of us who could be happy without certain luxuries, happiness is largely a state of mind, a philosophy.

And because all of us cannot be wealthy or prominent, it is often better to develop happiness and fulfillment and a good life through our philosophy and state of mind than to spend most of our days fretting, unhappy and disgruntled, or absorbed in the mad rush for the dollar, too busy to find out what life and the simple things are all about.

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Trivial matters can prove fatal when not kept in perspective.

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Washington Notes

Underground Tests

Officials of the Atomic Energy Commission believe that the atomic test series just ended in Nevada has demonstrated the feasibility of going almost completely underground in any future test program.

A proposal to conduct underground tests is being advanced within the commission as an alternate American position in the event the current East-West negotiations at Geneva fail to agree on halting atomic tests.

Air Force Chief Scientist

Dr. Joseph V. Charyk, an aeronautical engineer and chief of space activities for a motor company subsidiary, has been named chief scientist for the Air Force.

Dr. Charyk, 38 years old, was described by the Air Force as "one of the nation's leading scientists."

To Aid Fight

The Administration is preparing plans to help a number of underdeveloped nations attack their basic problems of health and education.

The size of the program, its geographical extent, and the money to be budgeted for it will come up for discussion between several interested government departments.

To Broaden NATO?

The United States is prepared to support strengthened ties between the North Atlantic Treaty alliance and other free world organizations, according to an authoritative report.

The United States was described as willing to restate its recognization of the effect upon NATO of developments in strategic areas outside the main Western defense system.

Fish and Game Restoration

A total of $21,000,000 in Federal aid has been allocated to the states for their fish and game restoration programs for the year ending June 30, 1959. This was announced by Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

80-Billion Burget

The new budget being prepared by Administration officials will provide the biggest spending total since World War II. But at the same time it will provide a firm downhold on new or expanded programs.

A figure around $80,000,000,000 is in prospect for expenditures in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960.

Yule Gifts To States

Ten reindeer, a Christmas gift from Alaska to the forty-eight states will arrive in Washington in early December.

The reindeer will take part in the capital's annual Christmas Pageant of Peace, which begins Dec. 23. After the pagent, they will be exhibited at the National Zoological Park.

Big Game Disposal

The Interior Department is having its annual big-game disposal sale. And, the department says, more people are interested in buying buffalo, longhorn cattle and elk than ever before.

The animals, which are being sold under the auspices of the Fish and Wildlife Service, are from the surplus stock of the national wildlife refuges. They are disposed of annually either as donations to public parks or by sale and are sold alive or butchered for eating purposes.

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CHANGES IN YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

By James W. Dinwiddie
(Manager of the Lynchburg, Va., Social Security District Office

In the first article of this series, I touched briefly on two of the most important changes made in the disability provisions of the social security law. They are the removal of one of the work requirements, and the payment of benefits to the dependents of insured workers who are eligible for monthly disability payments. The 1958 Amendments made other significant changes in the law relating to disability which I will discuss in this article.

The change in the work requirements will enable some disabled people who previously could not have their social security record "frozen," or who could not get disability payments at or after 50, to qualify now. These are workers who were found to be too severely disabled for further substantial gainful activity but who had not worked at least 1½ years out of the three years right before they became disabled.

I recall, in particular, the case of a Mr. J. When he applied for disability protection last year, he was found to be too severely disabled for further work. He had worked under social security 5 out of the 10 years before his disability began—a requirement which still holds. Mr. J.'s type of disability, however, was one that developed gradually. It was dignosed as chronic gauty arthritis combined with progressive rheumatoid. He had been able to work intermittently during the three years before he became totally disabled, but not enough to meet the "1½ out of 3 years" requirement in the old law. Consequently, we had to reject his claim for disability benefits. If Mr. J., and other disabled workers whose claims for the "freeze" or benefit payments were denied for similar reasons, will get in touch with the social security office and file new applications, their claims will now be valid.

The change in the law relating to benefits for dependents of disabled family breadwinners will be of help to Mr. J. as well as to many disability beneficiaries now on the rolls. Mr. J., now over age 50, has two children under 18 who are in the care of Mrs. J. Under the law, as amended, Mrs. J. and the children are now eligible for monthly payments as the dependents of a qualified disabled worker. Dependents of disabled worker beneficiaries who can now qualify for benefits are: children under 18, a disabled child fore that age, a wife aged 62 or older, a dependent husband 65 or over, or a wife under age 62 if she is caring for a child entitled to benefits. While payments to dependents of disability beneficiaries begin with September 1958. They cannot start until an application is filed through the social security office.

Another change in the law affects children who became disabled before age 18. Under the old law, they were not eligible for benefits unless proof could be shown that they were receiving at least one-half of their support from the parent upon whose social security record the child's benefit would be based. Proof of support is no longer required. A disabled child is now considered dependent on his parents under the same rules followed in the case of children qualifying for social security benefits under 18. Applications for childhood disability cases which were rejected because of lack of proof of dependency should be refiled promptly at the social security district office.

Under the 1958 Amendments, disability benefits may not be paid for months as far back as 12 months before application, if all requirements for entitlement, but in no case before July 1957. The rule is that the applicant must be disabled for at least 6 months before the seventh month's disability. If payment can be made for 1957 and were found not apply again payments will be paid automatically.

And speaking of amendments, if your social security disability benefits have been denied entirely but you are getting some type of State disability payments now start receiving social security disability benefits will no longer be offset by the amount of such other payments. It is not necessary to do anything about it. You receive your full social security disability payments starting with the benefit for August 1958.

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